



Representative Scott Plakon

Florida House of Representatives, District 37

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FLORIDA HEALTH CARE FREEDOM ACT ONE STEP CLOSER TO PROTECTING FLORIDIANS FROM UNFUNDED MANDATES

TALLAHASSEE - State Representative Scott Plakon (R-Longwood), is giving Floridians a chance to "fight back." House Joint Resolution (HJR) 37, known as the Florida Health Care Freedom Act, passed the Health Care Regulation Policy Committee today. This bill amends Florida's Constitution to prohibit any law or rule from forcing people to purchase health insurance, such as that passed by Congress late last night.

HJR 37 would preserve the freedom of citizens to choose the kind of care they want or need without the fear of being fined, penalized or taxed for not having sufficient coverage as determined by a bureaucrat.

"It is our duty to step up and reassert the rights of Floridians, in this case protecting our citizen's rights and freedoms to make appropriate decisions as it relates to their own health care," stated Representative Plakon.

Plakon added historical context to this important legislation, pointing out that in 1787, Dr. Benjamin Rush, the first Surgeon General of the Continental Army, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, worked diligently to have the protection of "medical freedom" as a key addition to the U.S. Constitution. Rush warned that medicine could become "an undercover dictatorship and force people who wish doctors and treatment of their own choice to submit to only what the dictating outfit offers."

Representative Plakon said that efforts to improve health care access and affordability are important, but that those efforts should not come at the expense of individual freedom and liberty. To amend Florida's Constitution, the Florida House and Senate must pass the referendum language in this year's legislative session with a super majority (3/5) voting in favor. Then, the measure goes before the voters in the 2010 November general election and must pass with at least 60% voting in favor.

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